

REMARKS

Claims 1, 6, 8, 10, 15, 33 and 34 have been amended, Claims 5, 7 and 9 are presently cancelled and new Claims 35 – 41 have been added. Claims 1 – 4, 6, 8, 10 – 11, 16, 17 – 18, 21, 23 – 27, 29 – 41 are pending in the application.

In the above-noted Office Action, Claims 21, 23 – 27 and 29 – 34 were allowed. Minor amendments have been made to allowed Claims 33 and 34 to correct certain informalities, with the claims still believed to be in allowable condition.

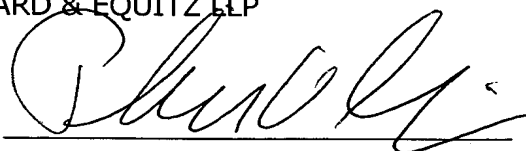
Dependent Claim 9 was objected to but was said to be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of independent Claim 1 and the intervening claims. Claim 9 recites that a "portion of the elongated guide member is movable so that the guide member continues to contact the wound portion of the binder strip roll as the roll is depleted". As understood from the "statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter" at page 6 of the Office Action, this feature is neither taught nor suggested by the prior art. Claim 1 has been amended to include a "guide mechanism including a guide member having a movable first portion that engages a wound portion of the binder strip roll as the binder strip roll is depleted". Although many of the limitations in the intervening claims have not been added to amended Claim 1, it is believed that Claim 1 is allowable based upon the added language. Claims 2 – 4, 8, 10 and 11 all depend from allowable Claim 1 and patentably significant limitations to the claim. Thus, these claims are also believed to be allowable.

New Claims 35 – 41 are directed a method of feeding a binder strip into a binding machine and are also believed to be allowable.

In conclusion, all pending claims are in condition for allowance and an early allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
GIRARD & EQUITZ LLP

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By: 

Philip A. Girard
Reg. No. 28,848

Attorneys for Applicant(s)

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